

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R.1406—a bill more appropriately titled the “More Work, Less Pay Act.”

My colleagues on both sides of the aisle have spoken today about the challenges facing working families. Far too many families are still struggling financially to make ends meet, and as their Representatives we should be voting on legislation that provides more opportunities and support for America’s workers.

Instead, House Republicans are wasting time on a harmful bill that puts us on a path to eliminating the 40 hour work week and a worker’s right to overtime pay. This bill presents a false flexibility that could amount to a real pay-cut for many of our nation’s hard working families. Under this bill, employers could cut the hours of employees who want overtime pay instead of comp time. And for workers who do choose comp time, employers could later deny or delay their requests for time off.

There are bills pending in the House right now that would actually benefit working families. We should be voting on the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 377) to ensure that women and men take home the same pay for the same jobs. The Healthy Families Act (H.R. 1286) would guarantee paid sick time so workers can care for themselves and their loved ones. And we should be raising the minimum wage to lift millions out of poverty and boost our economy.

Mr. Speaker, we all want to make it easier for Americans to care for themselves and their families, but this bill creates more problems than solutions. It undermines the right of employees to be paid fairly for the hours they work. I urge my colleagues to vote against the bill, and encourage them to support bringing real family friendly legislation to the floor.

NATIONAL STAMP OUT HUNGER DAY

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, on May 11, 2013, I was honored to join the National Association of Letter Carriers for national “Stamp out Hunger Day”, the 21st annual food drive held by this great organization. I joined with a number of letter carriers to unload trucks packed with food at the Kirkland Post Office in my home district. It is no surprise that the letter carriers have one of the most successful

food drives in the Nation. Last year alone, the event collected over 70.7 million pounds of food, an incredible achievement which undoubtedly made a profound impact for countless families in need.

Since 1991, on the second Saturday in May, letter carriers from across the country have collected non-perishable food, and have distributed the donations to local food banks. This effort is by far the Nation’s largest single-day food drive. Since its inception, the effort has collected over a billion pounds of food. This is another example of the letter carriers’ steadfast commitment to the communities they work in every day, and their effort should be commended.

I am extremely proud of the work the letter carriers are doing to combat hunger and food insecurity, and I would like to thank them for inviting me to take part in their food drive. I look forward to working with them on future national “Stamp out Hunger Days”, and am grateful to know that these important efforts will help families in need across the country.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Nurses Week. Nurses are the largest group of health care providers in the U.S., with over 3.1 million professionals serving individuals and families in a range of settings. We work in hospitals, schools, nursing homes, research labs, correctional facilities, health systems, social service agencies and even right here in Congress.

This annual tribute begins on the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, and continues all week to honor the important contributions nurses make each and every day. In addition to setting aside time to recognize the work of nurses, each year a theme is chosen to highlight a different aspect of nursing practice. And this year’s is incredibly timely: “Delivering Quality and Innovation in Patient Care.”

Whether it is helping one patient heal or working towards population level solutions to some of our most costly ailments, nurses are continuously innovating to improve quality of care. Nurses are patients’ first advocate in improving their health; educating them about treatments and helping them navigate a sometimes daunting system. Using knowledge, compassion and skills, nurses not only improve quality of care for their patients, but can do so while holding down costs.

For example, using nurse-managed care coordination reduces emergency room visits and readmissions, ultimately lowering Medicare costs. And as nursing staffing levels increase, patient risks of complications and length of hospital stays decrease, helping indi-

viduals heal faster, improving quality of life and reducing long and costly hospital stays.

I hope you will join me this week in honoring and supporting this dedicated group of professionals who consistently go above and beyond the call of duty to provide better quality health care for all. As co-House Nursing Caucus, and as a nurse myself, I want to say to all nurses who care for our families and communities day in and day out without recognition—thank you.

FAREWELL TO VISIONARY,
GROWTH-MINDED LEADER OF
NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY
COLLEGE, DR. ROBERT J.
KOPECEK

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 13, 2013

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert J. Kopecek, president of Northampton Community College from 1977–2003, who passed away in North Carolina on April 25.

Dr. Kopecek’s vision was to expand access to education, foster economic development and make Northampton a world-class community college. Dr. Kopecek achieved these goals and much more, establishing a legacy as one of Pennsylvania’s pre-eminent educational leaders. Under his leadership, enrollment at Northampton grew from 7,900 students a year to nearly 25,000, and the academic offerings expanded to include programs in more than 100 fields of study.

To allow more people access to an education, Dr. Kopecek led successful efforts to offer classes in downtown Bethlehem, in the Lehigh Valley, and in Monroe County.

As enrollment grew, so did the campus with the addition of Communications Hall and a child care center, the expansion of the College Center and Commonwealth Hall, and growing use of educational technology. In 1986, with private donations, Northampton became the first community college in Pennsylvania to build residence halls, enabling the student body, over time, to become more diverse, including international students.

While leading the college, Dr. Kopecek also played an active role in the community. During his tenure, outreach to the community came to include adult literacy and English-as-a-second language programs, Horizons for Youth, and the Art as a Way of Learning program that became a national model in early childhood education.

He also worked closely with business and industry, leading local manufacturers to rate Northampton as the “most visible” and “most helpful” organization involved in economic development in Northampton County. Dr. Kopecek led the movement to establish what was then the Northampton County Development Corporation, and served on the boards or advisory committees of the Bethlehem

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